



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Bravo Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 79<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery  
434<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade  
6007 ROTHWELL ST  
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-5000



26 February 2015

Dear Friends and Family Members,

My name is Captain Robert Simmons. I, along with the Battery First Sergeant, First Sergeant Shandrel Stewart, are the Command Team for your Soldier during their stay here in Basic Combat Training. Your Soldier has arrived safely to Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, part of the 434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade here at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Your Soldier is here to learn how to become a Soldier in the U.S. Army. Rest assured, your Soldier is in the hands of the most dedicated and experienced Drill Sergeants and cadre in the Army. The Bravo Battery Drill Sergeants and cadre are professional Soldiers who have had multiple combat tours and have been trained to instruct your Soldier in the Warrior Ethos and the Warrior tasks and battle drills. Your Soldier is our mission here and we are genuinely concerned about their health, welfare and training. Our jobs exist to help your Soldier graduate from Basic Combat Training.

Over the next nine weeks your Soldier will learn a variety of skills that will transform them from a civilian to a Soldier. Your Soldier will learn the basic Soldier skills that are required to fight and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding. The tasks your Soldier performs will help them develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army. They will conduct physical training daily. They will be given classes on everything from military customs and traditions to policies and procedures on how to conduct themselves as members of the military. In addition, they will learn how to engage the enemy with a rifle, care for casualties using first aid, navigate with a map and a compass and learn the values that they will live by as a warrior.

Your Soldier is extremely busy so do not expect regular communication. Written communication is often more reliable than phone calls. I encourage you to write to your Soldier because support from home goes a long way. We will permit a call home within the first week of training as well as on weekends when their platoon **is deserving of the privilege** and when training requirements permit. If you wish to send a package, do not send magazines, weapons, food, or other contraband items (soda, electronics, tobacco, pornography, etc...). Examples of things that are ok to send are toiletries and photographs. Letters and packages should be mailed to (get the PLT # from your Soldier):

(Line 1) Soldier's Name  
(Line 2) Bravo Battery, 1-79 FA, PLT #\_\_\_\_  
(Line 3) 6007 Rothwell Street

(Line 4) Fort Sill, OK 73503

**Should an emergency arise, the only means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross.** The field office in your vicinity will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office who will in turn contact me. In dire emergencies affecting immediate family members (sibling or parent), emergency leave may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized. If in the unlikely event something should happen to change your Soldier's health and welfare, I, the Battery Commander will personally let you know.

We plan to correspond as much as possible through another letter and our Facebook page. In the coming weeks, you will receive a letter outlining the details of graduation and family day. For your calendar however, family day will be on 30 April at 1000 at a location to be announced and graduation on 1 May at 1300 at the Hilton Hotel in Lawton. We have a Facebook page we use to keep you updated. We encourage you to log into Facebook and search "Bravo Battery 1-79" or utilize the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/B179FA> . We keep this site up to date so you know what training your Soldier is doing. We also post pictures so you may get a chance to see your Soldier in action. Additionally, the most up to date information about graduation and family day will be posted here. If you have any questions feel free to contact me or my First Sergeant by email or phone.

In closing, your Soldier is our mission. Without them, we would not be here. I will do whatever it takes to see that your Soldier is successful but, your son or daughter has to want to become a part of the U.S. Army. Encourage your Soldier to succeed and they will, just like the many who have gone before.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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580-442-1314

1SG Shandrel E. Stewart  
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580-442-1312

Respectfully,

ROBERT J. SIMMONS  
CPT, CM  
Commanding

SHANDREL E. STEWART  
1SG, USA  
First Sergeant